THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Battery operated bus has been introduced in selected routes in Delhi on a trial basis. However, there is no proposal with the Government at present to encourage introduction of similar buses in other metropolitan cities.

(b) Does not arise.

National nutrition monitoring bureau

1288. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI KAILASH PATI *MISHRA:*

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which published in the 'Hindustan Times' of the 20th October, 1985 to the effect that a study by the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau has revealed that the slumdwellers and rural landless labour consumed half of the quantity of milk taken by industrial workers and low income groups, one sixth and one tenth only respectively of those consumed by middle income groups and higher income groups; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to ensure better milk consumption by weaker sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. The milk consumption is related to the purchasing power of the consumer. The per capita consumption of milk by the Lower Income segment of population is, therefore, less than the national per capita availability of milk.

(b) The milk production and also the per capita availability of milk in the country has been steadily increasing. There are a number of central and State Sector schemes for cattle development in the country to improve their productivity. These are as follows; (1) Coordinated Cattle Breeding Project (Progeny Testing of Cross-bred bulls), (2) Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute, Hessarghata, (3) Cross Breeding of cattle with exotic dairy breeds and upgrading of buffaloes using frozen semen techniques outside operation flood area, (4) Assistance to selected Goshalas for production of high quality indigenous/cross-bred heifers, (5) Central Cattle Breeding Farms, (6) Central Herd Registration Scheme, (7) Intensive Cattle Development Project (ICDP), (8) Model Village Blocks, (9) State Cattle Breeding Farms and (10) Operation Flood Project. Further, the Integrated Rural Development Programme aims at identifying families below the poverty line based on income criteria and provides them with productive inputs, assets and technology with a view to bringing them above the poverty line.

Accelarating the work of betel leaf research

1289. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government plan to accelarate the work of betel leaf research;

(b) what amount has been allotted by the Central Government in the year 1984-85 for the said research; and

(c) what is the number of betel leaf research centres which are working in India and in which places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs. 10,85,400/- was allotted in 1984-85.

(c) There are eight centres of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Betelvine Diseases which are located in the Agricultural Universities at Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Jabalpur, Rahuri, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Jorhat and Kalyani. In addition, there is a Coordinating Unit located at the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research Bangalore. Research work on betel leaf is also in progress at the National Botanical Research Institute of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in Lucknow.

Import of edible oil

1290. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of edible oil which has been imported during the year 1984-85 and so far during the current year; and

(b) what has been the imported cost of this oil per tonne and what has been the selling price to vanaspati industry per tonne during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) During the financial year 1984-85, a quantity of 15.85 lakh tonnes of edible oils was imported at an approximate average CIF price of Rs. 8,262 per metric tonne. For the period April, 1985 to October 1985, these figures are 7.80 lakh tonnes and Rs. 8,288 per metric tonne, respectively. The issue price of these oils to vanaspati industry from 24.5.84 to 14.11.85 was Rs. 9,500 per metric tonne and from 15.11.85, it is Rs. 11,500 per metric tonne.

Production of Children Films

1291. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the inauguration of the fourth International Children's Film Festival, organised by the Children's Film Society of India, at Bangalore on the 15th November, 1985 the Prime Minister ovserved that the quality of children's films produced in the country was not good;

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government to produce high quality and patriotic films for the children; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to produce such films in regional languages also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government cannot do much for improving the quality of Children films produced in the private sector. However, to encourage production of high quality childrens films, the Government gives an award for the best Children's films every year in the National Film Festival. There is also a registered society receiving grant-in-aid from the Government, namely the Children's Film Society, which is responsible for production of Childrens films. It has been its constant endeavour to produce high quality films. Some of the measures that it has taken/proposed to